

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 053470

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ORIGIN ARA-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 263

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BOWDLER

FOLLOWING REPEATS QUITO 01612 ACTION DEPT NFO CARACAS GUAYAQUIL MAR  
7TH

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EC XM

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON THE STATE OF THE ALLIANCE

REF: A) QUITO 1466 B) QUITO 1506 C) QUITO 1585

1. SUMMARY: IN TWO EDITORIALS DURING THE LAST FOUR DAYS,  
EL COMERCIO, QUITO'S LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL DAILY, HAS  
TREATED BOTH US-ECUADOREAN AND US-HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS IN A  
VIEW OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SATURDAY, MARCH 1, SPEECH IN  
HOUSTON THAT SEEMED TO US REMARKEDLY BALANCED AND ON THE  
WHOLE, OPTIMISTIC. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 053470

2. IN AN EDITORIAL ON MARCH 3RD ENTITLED "PROBLEMS IN THE

HEMISPHERE" (REF A), EL COMERCIO NOTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD MADE A NUMBER OF POSITIVE POINTS IN HIS HOUSTON SPEECH, POINTS SHARED BY ECUADOR, AND WHICH DEMONSTRATED "AN APPRECIABLE CHANGE OF AMERICAN ATTITUDE WITH RESPECT TO LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS." AMONG THEM WERE HOLDING OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE IN THE TRADE REFORM ACT TO ALLOW ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCES; THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH CUBA; AND THE POSSIBILITY OF THE REFORM IN THE OAS TO PERMIT MAJORITY OPINION TO CARRY MORE WEIGHT. ECUADOR SUPPORTS THE OAS AS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY; IT HAS REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED THAT IT WILL NOT BREAK RANKS WITH THE OAS BY UNILATERAL ACTION. THE COMERCIO EDITORIAL NOTES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY STUDIES AND PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF THE OAS, AND DESCRIBES THE NEED FOR CHANGE AS "INDISPENSABLE". CALLING THE KISSINGER SPEECH "AN OPTIMISTIC ACCENT ON THE ATTAINABILITY OF A NEW DIALOGUE" THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO REPEAT ECUADOR'S POSITION THAT IT WILL FIRST BE NECESSARY TO CHANGE "A LAW WHICH IS EXPRESSLY DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST TWO LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS, MEMBERS OF THE OAS, AND WHICH THE NEW DIALOGUE MUST INCLUDE." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES "RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE MUST BE STRENGTHENED, AND SHOULD LEAD TO COLLABORATION AS A BLOC, JUSTLY DEALING WITH ALL THOSE MUTUAL INTERESTS THEY SHARE." AND THEN WINDS UP WITH A RESTATEMENT OF THE ECUADOREAN POSITION THAT FIRST IT IS NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE THE CAUSES OF UNEQUAL TREATMENT METED OUT TO TWO OF THEM.

3. IN THE SECOND EDITORIAL (REF C) ENTITLED "ON THE UNITED STATES TRADE REFORM ACT", EL COMERCIO OF MARCH 6TH NOTES THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD (UNNAMED) OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK OF NEW YORK TESTIFIED BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON THE URGENCY OF AMENDING THE TRADE REFORM ACT WITH RESPECT TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OPEC MEMBERS. EL COMERCIO PARTICULARLY PRAISES THE FNCB CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT TO THE COMMITTEE "I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT YOUR LANGUAGE IS AMBIGUOUS, IN PART, NO DOUBT, BECAUSE THE SENATE ADOPTED THE AMENDMENT (AGAINST OPEC MEMBERS) IN HASTE AT THE LAST MOMENT." THE COMERCIO EDITORIAL, PERHAPS IN AN ATTEMPT AT RATIONALIZATION, ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 053470

REFERS ELSEWHERE TO THE FACT THAT THE AMENDMENT WAS A LAST-MINUTE ADDITION TO THE BILL, AND GOES ON TO SAY "LEGISLATURES OF ANY COUNTRY SOMETIMES MAKE DECISIONS WHICH ARE NOT THOROUGHLY JUST, OR WHICH ARE BASED UPON AN INCOMPLETE REFLECTION OF THE EFFECT THEY WILL HAVE, SOMETHING WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THE CASE OF THAT PORTION OF THE TRA WHICH IS DIRECTED AGAINST COUNTRIES OF THIS HEMISPHERE WHICH HAVE NEVER SHOWN ANY HOSTILITY TOWARDS, NOR DAMAGED

THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF, THE UNITED STATES. THE  
VOICE OF SUCH AN IMPORTANT BANKER WILL SURELY BE TAKEN INTO  
ACCOUNT ON THE SIDE OF ERASING A MISTAKE WHICH HAS DISTURBED  
OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND HAS RAISED SUCH A JUST  
PROTEST FROM THE AFFECTED NATIONS." AND THE EDITORIAL  
CONCLUDES, ON AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE WHICH WE HAVE SEEN RE-  
PEATEDLY CREEP INTO BOTH OFFICIAL ECUADOREAN PRONOUNCEMENTS  
AS WELL AS PRESS COMMENTARY, "RUNNING THROUGH THE ENTIRE  
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SPECTRUM OF HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS,  
HAS BEEN A THREAD OF COLLABORATION ON BEHALF OF THE WELL-  
BEING OF ALL OF THE NATIONS OF AMERICA. TO ATTAIN THIS  
OBJECTIVE, HOWEVER, IT IS NECESSARY TO REMOVE A FACTOR  
WHICH CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS OBSTACLE (THE DISCRIMINATORY  
TREATMENT UNDER THE TRA)."  
BREWSTER  
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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